

May 12, 2006

Dear Friend:

Yesterday (5/11/06), we learned that the National Security Agency (NSA) has been collecting the telephone data of millions of Americans. According to a Thursday, May 11, 2006 article in USA Today, the NSA has been “secretly collecting the phone call records of tens of millions of Americans, using data provided by AT&T, Verizon, and BellSouth.” While the creation of this database does not involve the NSA recording our actual conversations, the Agency now has detailed records of calls people have made – to doctors, to friends, to family. I believe that this program is a significant violation of privacy for all Americans.

The President must have the best possible intelligence to protect our nation and he must be able to conduct secret programs to gather this intelligence, but this has to be done in accordance with our Constitution. Securing our nation from all enemies, both foreign and domestic can be achieved without violating our civil liberties.

The existence of this database is extremely alarming. Yesterday, I spoke on the House floor to express my concerns over the NSA spying programs and to demand that Congress exercise its full oversight responsibility in examining these programs. To learn more about this issue and to read my full statement, please visit <http://www.tomudall.house.gov/issues2.cfm?id=11834>.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. I hope you have found the information useful. Please watch your inbox for future updates.

Very Truly Yours,

Tom Udall
Member of Congress